Effectiveness of Nulcear Regulator

790. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmen't attention has been drawn to the article titled "Is our nuclear regulator effective" published in "Observer" dated the 9th December 1999; and

(b) if so, the Government's response to the 21 pending nuclear issues referred in the last para of the article?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The twenty one issues referred to in the article may be categorised as hardware related issues needing replacement of components, ageing related issues, confidence building exercise requiring analytical studies and upgradation requirements. Eleven of these issues pertain to nuclear power stations. None of the twenty one issues warrant restrictive actions on any nuclear installation.

Four of the safety issues which include installation of training simulator at Kaiga Generating Station, installation of ROD Worth Minimizer at Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS), improving core cooling reliability at DHRUVA and updating of off-site emergency plans in Nuclear Power Plants are nearing completion.

Implementation of the action plans related to all issues is being continuously monitored by Government.

India's Nuclear Programme

791. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan's Nuclear Plan depends on foreign aid and India's nuclear programmes are indigenous;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would disclose the identity of those countries which assist the Pakistan in this regard and how much

money has been spent on the nuclear explosions carried out by India at Pokharan in 1999 which could be diverted towards the development plans of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) Government is aware of reports of foreign financial assistance to Pakistan's nuclear programme. In addition, China has provided assistance, *inter-alia,* in setting up an unsafeguarded reactor and plutonium reprocessing facility, provided ring magnets, heavy water, diagnostic equipment, etc. Pakistan has also acquired nuclear technology and equipment from Western countries. In contrast, it is universally recognised that India's nuclear programme, the oldest in Asia, is totally indigenous.

India has an extensive civilian nuclear programme that generates considerable socio-economic benefits. Further, India's nuclear policy has always been marked by restraint ensuring of minimum necessary action to safeguard the country's critical security interests. Thus, the costs involved with the exercise of India's nuclear option have been minimum.

Issuance of passports for plane Hijackers

792. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the hijackers of Indian Airlines plane and their associates, allegedly Pakistani citizens, acquired Indian passports from Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been coundcted into the matter; and

(c) the action taken, if any against the travel agency and Government official for their involvement therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.